(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The necessity of conservation of biological diversity has been recognised. The Government has taken a realistic approach in this regard. Measures taken include the following:

(i) Legislations like Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been enacted.

(ii) National parks, sanctuaries and special projects like Project Tiger for protection of endangered species have been established.

(iii) Regular survey and taxonomic studies of flora and fauna are being done by the Botanical survey of India and the Zoological Survey of India respectively.

(iv) Endangered species of flora and fauna are being listed.

(v) For setting up of Biosphere Reserves in representative biogeographic regions, 13 sites have been identified. Two Reserves, *viz.*, Nilgiri and Nanda Devi have been set up.

(vi) Schemes have been introduced for conservation of wetlands and mangroves.

(vii) Programmes of conservation education and awareness involving a number of non-Governmental organisations have been taken up.

(viii) India is a party to major International Conventions/ Protocols like Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Convention for the Protection of Migratory Animals, Ramsar Convention for the protection of wetlands, etc.

Representation for Exempting Sports Federation from Payment of Income-Tax

753. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sports organisations including the Board of Control for Cricket in India, have represented to Government for exempting all sports federations from filing income-tax returns and payment of tax; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The provisions in the Income Tax Act regarding exemption of income of the associations or institutions having the object of control, supervision, regulation or encouragement in India of the games of Cricket, Hockey, Football, Tennis and other notified games or sports, have been, with effect from 1-4-1989, replaced by the provisions providing for uniform discipline of exemption in respect of voluntary organisations including sports organisations. The Government have received representations requesting to retain the existing provisions. The implications of the changed provisions have been clarified to some of these organisations.

Export of Garments and Textiles to the United States

754. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is facing a stiff competition from Taiwan, South Korea, China, Japan and Hong-Kong in regard to export of garments and

other textiles to the United States; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, despite competition from these countries, our exports of garments and textiles to the United States have been increasing. Government has taken several steps to boost our exports of garments and textiles to various countries including U.S.A. as per statement attached.

Statement

Steps taken to boost exports of Textile Products

A number of initiatives have been taken by the Government in the recent past for giving a boost to the exports of textiles and garments. Some of the major decisions which contributed to the growth in exports are listed below:—

(i) Sophisticated garments Manufacturing machines not manufactured indigenously are allowed to be imported on OGL. As many as 118 machines for garments and hosiery manufacture have been placed under OGL, 104 of them enjoying concessional import duty. 31 machineries required for the woollen industry and seven machineries required for the textile industry are also allowed to be imported at a concessional duty.

(ii) In order to encourage improvement in the quality of cotton yarn and fabrics, excise duty on Auto-Coners, Open and Rotor Spinning machines, Shuttleless looms of all types and Two for One Twister has been reduced from 15 per cent to 5 per cent.

(iii) A textile modernisation fund of Rs. 750 crores has been created for facilitating modernisation of textile industry.

(iv) A long term policy for the export of cotton yarn with liberal ceilings had been announced. The ceiling for the year 1988 has been fixed at 40 million kgs. for cotton yarn of counts upto 60s. There is no restriction on the export of cotton yarn above counts 60s.

(v) Revised rates of CCS have been announced effective from 1st July, 1986. These rates which have been announced for a period of 3 years are generally higher than before. Slow moving items of garments on which CCS was not admissible when exported to quota countries have been made eligible for CCS. CCS on export of cotton yarn of all counts has been allowed at the rate of 8 per cent from 29th August, 1986. CCS on export of grey fabrics has been raised to 10 per cent *w.e.f.* 13-2-1987.

(vi) Permission for use of foreign brand names for domestic sales has been approved in the case of readymade garments with the stipulation that only indigenous fabrics are used; at least 75 per cent of the production is exported and no royalties are allowed on domestic sales.

(vii) Many items of raw material/fabrics are permitted to be imported under Advance Licensing Scheme and the Import-Export Pass Book Scheme. The procedures under this Scheme have also been simplified.

(viii) In the new Import-Export Policy (1988—91), deemed export benefits have now been made available to all indigenous suppliers of all textiles against duty-free licences. This would encourage holders of duty-free licences (Advance Licences/Pass Book) to procure the required inputs from indigenous sources rather than spending the scarce foreign exchange. This is also expected to result in more value addition and better capacity utilisation of the indigenous producers.

(ix) The Intermediate Advance Licensing Scheme which was limited to only a few specific products has now been broadened to cover all textile items where two-stage operations can be undertaken jointly by two different manufacturing units as long as input-output norms and forward and backward linkages are established.

(x) Under 100 per cent Export Oriented Units and Free Trade Zones Scheme, facilities for liberal import of capital goods and raw materials alongwith many other concessions are given. These units have now also been made eligible for CCS and tax holidays for five years. They can also sell 25 per cent of their products in the domestic markets and also use foreign brand name subject to certain conditions.

(xi) The number of days of preshipment credit has been increased from 90 days to 180 days. The rate of interest has also been reduced by 2.5 per cent.

(xii) Tax concession under Section 80 HHC for export profits has been enhanced so as to exempt 100 per cent export profits from income tax.

(xiii) The agency commission has been increased and rules for blanket permission for foreign exchange have been substantially liberalised.

(xiv) The National Institute for Fashion Technology has been set up in Delhi for education, research and training in the areas of fashion design for garment manufacture.

(xv) In order to give further thrust to our export to non-quota countries, Government has established two Study Groups in the Ministry of Textiles —one for Garments and other for Textiles with a view to identify thrust markets, constraints to exports in such markets and the facilities to be offered to exporters of such markets.

Strike by Teachers and State Goverment Employees in Tamil Nadu

755. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

SHRI T. R. BALU:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when the teachers and State Government employees went on strike in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what are their demands;

(c) how many employees and teachers were arrested in this connection;

(d) whether any negotiations have taken place with the representatives of the striking employees and teachers; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Various Services Associations of State Government employees and teachers in Tamil Nadu went on strike from 22-6-1988 and from different dates subsequently.

(b) The demands of the Employees and Teachers were (i) pay parity with Central Government staff; (ii) one month pay as bonus; (iii) to treat the teaching and non-teaching staff in private schools and colleges as Government Employees and grant of all concessions eligible to Government Employees and Teachers; (iv) grant of medical allowances and to extend the House Rent Allowance to all the areas and (v) to grant regular pay scale to all teachers and government employees on consolidated pay system and to appoint the part-time teachers as full-time teachers.